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# SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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NO. 6 VOL. III

JUNE 1940

## HAS YOUR CHURCH TAKEN THE C. O. ENROLLMENT?

The sudden turn taken by the war in Europe, involving as it does the invasion of Holland, Belgium and northern France and the threat of invasion of England for the first time in a thousand years (which may easily have become a fact before these lines appear in print) confront pastors who have not yet taken the conscientious objector enrollment in their churches with the fact that by their delay they may be jeopardizing the lives of persons in their congregations who are conscientious objectors but have no way of registering that fact except on the records of their local church. Should war be declared and individuals subject to military service plead exemption on the ground of Christian conscience, their plea could be seriously compromised if it were shown that they failed to register in a nationwide enrollment of conscientious objectors authorized by the International Convention. The pastor who fails to give an opportunity for conscientious objectors in his congregation to register may well ask himself if he is acting fairly toward those of his flock who may hold such convictions. When the pastor has sent for the registration cards and has given full announcement of the enrollment in the church and its various organizations he has fulfilled his duty to his people. If no one applies for cards then at least the failure does not lie at his door. But if he for any reason fails to announce the registration and some young man is refused exemption from military service because of that fact, then the pastor may have to accept blame. The fact that he failed to register when the enrollment was taken would almost certainly be used against an applicant for exemption on the ground of conscience.

The response to the enrollment to date has been better than was expected when it was proposed. In no case has any church been solicited to take the enrollment. The only publicity given to it has been through brotherhood publications. Yet hundreds of orders for enrollment cards have been received and as these lines are written the last of 9,000 cards are being sent in response to orders from churches and a fourth printing of 3,000 cards has been authorized. Already signed cards are beginning to come into the office of the Department of Social Education and Social Action in considerable numbers.

Signed cards should be sent at once to the Department of Social Education and Social Action, 222 Downey Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana, after making proper notation on the church roll.

## PROTESTANT CHURCHES ORGANIZE TO AID REFUGEES

At the request of the national agencies engaged in relief of European refugees, the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America has called from retirement its former general secretary, Dr. Charles S. McFarland, to lead in an effort to enlist local churches throughout the United States to accept carefully defined responsibilities for helping refugee families (or individuals) to find self-respecting and self-supporting places in the life of American communities. The plan proposes that a local church will, through Dr. McFarland, become responsible for a refugee family, meeting them at the train upon arrival in the community, assisting them to secure temporary quarters if permanent arrangements have not been made beforehand, assisting them in the matter of housing, social adjustment, employment, and providing for temporary support until the family can begin to take care of itself. Under arrangements proposed the national refugee agencies will provide transportation to the community, if for any reason the local group is unable to do so, and will aid in providing maintenance for the first two weeks until the family can get settled. If at the end of the period agreed upon the refugee family is not self-supporting the Federal Council will arrange to relieve the local committee of further responsibility.

It is expected that local church groups will assume the following responsibilities with reference to refugee families chosen: 1. Give friendly help to the family in becoming adjusted to its new environment, including relation to schools, community agencies, cultural and medical facilities, business and industrial life. 2. Support the family for a limited period to be agreed upon in advance, perhaps from three to six months, in case remunerative employment is not secured at once. The amount of such assistance will, of course, depend upon the size of the family. 3. In case the refugee family does not become satisfactorily adjusted or earn its living in the new community, and the local group is not willing to carry the responsibility further, Dr. McFarland will negotiate with the proper national agency to make necessary adjustments.

So far as possible the national organizations will meet preferences of local groups with respect to the type of refugee family to be assigned. This arrangement offers an excellent opportunity for Christian churches to give expression to the doctrine of human brotherhood.

## REMEMBER THE COSTS OF WAR

With the whole of Europe either engulfed in war or trembling on the verge, and with the people of the United States being stampeded into the greatest armament hysteria in our peace-time history, it is well to brush up a bit on the arithmetic of war. The Carnegie Peace Library, of Washington, D.C. recently published an article entitled, The Cost of War in General, quoting from a number of sources. This article was reprinted in Congressional Record on May 6, 1940 (pages 8652-8655), from which the following figures are taken.

### Direct and Indirect Costs of the World War

Total direct cost, net	\$186,233,637,097
Indirect costs:	
Capitalized value of human life:	
Soldiers	\$33,551,276,280
Civilians	33,551,276,280
Property losses:	
On land	29,960,000,000
Shipping	6,800,000,000
Loss of Production	45,000,000,000
War relief	1,000,000,000
Neutral losses	1,750,000,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$337,846,189,657

The total direct cost to the United States was about \$22,000,000,000, or nearly enough to pay the entire cost of the U.S. Government from 1791 to 1914. During the first three months our expenditures amounted to \$2,000,000 per day. During the next year they averaged more than \$22,000,000 per day, and the last ten months the daily average was over \$44,000,000.

Victor Berger, in Current History, January, 1928, estimated that the total cost of the war to all countries would have done the following things: Built a \$2500 house on 5 acres of land valued at \$100 per acre, with \$1000 worth of furniture for every family in the U.S., Canada, Australia, England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France, Belgium, Germany, and Russia. There would have been enough left to give every city of 200,000 and over in the countries named a \$5,000,000 library, a \$5,000,000 hospital, and a \$10,000,000 university. There would have been enough money left to set up a fund that at 5% interest would pay for all time, a salary of \$1,000 a year to 125,000 teachers and 125,000 nurses, and still been enough left to buy up all of France and Belgium including everything of value in these countries in 1914.

### The Estimated Costs of the Present War

In the present war Great Britain is spending at the rate of \$9,600,000,000 a year. This is equal to about 40 cents out of every dollar earned by its citizens. On a population basis this would be equivalent to a \$27,000,000,000, annual budget for the United States. France is spending about \$7,400,000,000 a year, which would be equivalent to \$23,000,000,000, for the United States. Germany's costs are a matter of conjecture. The best estimates indicate that Germany is spending about 60 cents out of every dollar earned by its people. No figures are available for Russia. Belgium and Holland with less than 1/14th the population of the United States were spending \$300,000,000 a year to maintain armed neutrality before war engulfed them.

## HEARST CHICAGO PAPER CAPITULATES TO UNION

The longest and bitterest strike in the history of the American Newspaper Guild (CIO) ended on April 26, 1940, when the Hearst-owned Chicago Herald-American signed a contract with the Guild covering its news room employees. The 17-month strike was replete with dramatic and sensational developments. In the first place, the newspaper which signed the contract was not the one which was originally struck. The strikers were not mechanical employees, but of the so-called "white collar" group - reporters, rewrite men, copy desk workers, and the like. In the third place, it was one of the few strikes ever won against Hearst publications.

The strike began on December 5, 1938, when a group of Guild workers seeking a union contract, were discharged by Hearst's Herald-Examiner. Strike headquarters were established near the Herald-Examiner plant and the striking workers were organized and assigned specific tasks, such as picketing, calling on advertisers, securing funds, and the like. The strike was marked by a good deal of violence, from which the strikers were the chief sufferers. Pickets were beaten up, their sound truck was dumped into the Chicago River and numerous other acts of violence reported. But the strikers were able to enlist a good deal of public support and the circulation and advertising of the paper suffered seriously. In August, 1939, the Herald-Examiner was combined with Hearst's other Chicago paper, the American, as the Herald-American. Hearst officials refused to deal with the strikers on the theory that the struck paper had gone out of business. However, the National Labor Relations Board had been called into the case and as a result of its mediation a settlement was made whereby the Herald-American agreed to take back 115 of the 167 persons who had remained active throughout the strike, including 8 members of the group whose discharge precipitated the conflict. Those not reinstated will divide \$24,000 in dismissal pay. Immediate wage increases have been granted to news room workers and troublesome questions involving the future of unions organized by workers who did not join the strike will be decided by an election to determine the collective bargaining agent to be held within the next six months.

### COMMITTEE OF 1,000 TO URGE PUBLIC HOUSING

The National Public Housing Conference, of which Mary Kingsbury Simkhovitch is president, announces the formation of a Committee of 1000 to widen public interest in the housing problem in rural and urban areas and to secure expansion of the slum clearance and re-housing program of the federal government. Members of the committee will be representatives of groups in each of the forty-eight states interested in housing. Immediate need for Congressional action on the \$800,000,000 additional appropriation asked for the Federal Housing Authority is emphasized by the fact that 180 communities in 32 states, the District of Columbia, Hawaii and Puerto Rico have made application for FHS funds for public housing projects which cannot be met until the new appropriation is voted by Congress. Directors of the National Housing Conference, in addition to Mrs. Simkhovitch, includes Jonathan Daniels, Frank A. Vanderlip, Jr., Rabbi Edward L. Israel, Harry W. Laidler, Bishop McConnell and William Allen White.

## HOW LOCAL CHURCHES CAN AID EUROPEAN REFUGEES

At the request of the national agencies for relief of European refugees the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, 297 Fourth Ave., New York, has undertaken to enlist the aid of Protestant congregations throughout the United States to help refugee families (or individuals) to find self-respecting and self-supporting places in American community life.

Local congregations are being asked to become responsible for one or more refugee families (or individuals) which are to be selected in cooperation with the Federal Council and the national relief agencies. When arrangements have been made the local congregation will be asked -

1. To provide transportation to the community, usually from New York. Where the local group is unable to do this the Federal Council will undertake to arrange transportation.
2. Meet the family at the train, make their acquaintance, welcome them to the community and accompany them to their temporary quarters, in case permanent quarters have not been provided.
3. Help them find permanent housing, if necessary.
4. Help working members of the family to find employment.
5. Help children to get oriented in school.
6. Acquaint the family with the community's social agencies, especially with agencies for health, employment, etc.
7. In general, act as 'first friend' of the family until such time as the family is able to care for itself.

In order to meet the financial responsibilities which such a project involves, the Federal Council agrees to provide maintenance, if necessary, for the first two weeks at \$10 per week for one person, \$15 for two or \$20 for three. It is urged however that where possible the local committee assume immediate financial responsibility.

It is urged that immediate steps be taken to make refugee families self-supporting and that plans for naturalization begin at once. The local committee should also keep in touch with these exiles and help them in every way to make needed religious, social, educational and cultural adjustments to their new environment.

These men and women are with us because they are victims of persecution. They have sought our shores because of their intense desire for freedom. They are among us as 'strangers and sojourners' and this is the church's opportunity to offer a cup of cold water in the name of Christ.

For further information write: Dr. Charles S. McFarland, Mountain Lakes, N.J., or the Department of Social Education and Social Action, Missions Building, 222 Downey Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana.

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## ON SOCIAL FRONTIERS

Through the Children's Crusade school children of the United States will contribute their pennies to a fund for relief of child victims of war in China, Poland, Spain, Czechoslovakia, Finland, and Norway. The idea developed when a group of Vermont school children sent \$5.69 to Dorothy Canfield Fisher with a request that she use it for them in helping refugee children in war-stricken countries. With the cooperation of educators Mrs. Fisher launched a campaign to have school children in the 250,000 schools in the United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Canal Zone contribute a penny for each year of their age. Mrs. Roosevelt has accepted the chairmanship of the committee which will distribute the funds. The committee in charge of the profits from the sale of Hitler's Mein Kampf in this country decided to make Adolf Hitler an unwilling contributor by underwriting the expenses of the campaign from the profits of the sale of his book.

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For 29 years George D. Stevens was a quiet, respected citizen of Hartford City, Indiana. During that time he rose to wealth and to an executive position in one of the community's industries. In 1925 he established the Akron Foundation "to minister to human wants and needs and to alleviate suffering." He contributed to numerous charities and financed the college careers of several young men. When he died in April 1940, he left the bulk of his estate to his Akron Foundation. When his relatives came from Akron, Ohio, to the funeral, it was discovered that George D. Stevens was a Negro. Said one of his associates, "Hartford City, where no Negro families reside, is better for having had George Stevens as a citizen."

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On May 4, 1940, more than 20,000 persons from 11 states & Canada turned up in Phillipsburg, Kansas, for the dedication of the first complete cooperative oil refinery in the world, the property of 452 retail oil & gasoline co-ops with 120,000 members in 10 midwestern states composing the Consumers Cooperative Assn. The \$850,000 refinery processes 88,000 gallons of petroleum products every 24 hours. Last year these co-ops did a business of \$4,425,000. It has now been voted to establish a cooperative oil producing association to buy or drill oil wells, should such a step become necessary to secure crude oil for the refinery.

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Interracial News Service from the Federal Council of Churches quotes Norfolk (Va.) Journal and Guide as saying that in the whole United States there are only 7,000 hospital beds available for Negroes, or roughly one bed to every 2,000 persons. In Mississippi, where there are a million Negroes only 65 hospital beds are available and in Texas where there are 900,000 Negroes, only 200. In many places when a Negro doctor takes a patient to the hospital he must leave him at the door, since Negro physicians are not allowed to practice in most hospitals.

For several months the white and Negro ministerial alliances of Jacksonville, Florida have had a joint committee meeting regularly. In April, 1940, the entire membership of both associations met jointly at First Christian Church, where the president of the Negro alliance delivered the address and the women of the church served luncheon.

## GEORGE LANSBURY IS DEAD

George Lansbury, known as "Britain's Number One pacifist," Socialist, trade unionist, churchman and member of Parliament, died on the night of May 7, in Manor Hospital, one of Labor's own sanatoria in north London, at the age of 81. All his life George Lansbury championed unpopular causes. He worked for woman suffrage, for playgrounds for London's poor children and for reform in London's workhouses. His first venture into politics was as a member of the London County Council and later as a member of the Labor Party he rose to Cabinet rank. But he will be remembered best because of his work for peace. At the time of his death he was president of the Peace Pledge Union. In 1937, he visited the United States, where he made a nationwide tour, speaking in many of the larger cities and conferring with President Roosevelt. He also visited Premier Leon Blum of France, former Premier Paul van Zeeland of Belgium, the prime ministers and foreign secretaries of all the Scandinavian countries, the chiefs of state in Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Austria. He went to Germany to visit Adolf Hitler and to Italy to see Mussolini in order to try to prevent war. He also had talks with representatives of Spain, Ethiopia, China, and Japan. "The sole object of all I have had in view," he said, "has been to arouse .... all of those with whom I have conferred to the ghastly fact that, unless some alternative to the present armament race is speedily found and applied, mankind will witness the destruction of Western civilization and relapse into barbarism." When all his efforts came to naught he sat with bowed head & heard the debate in the House of Commons on September 1, 1939, when after Germany's invasion of Poland, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain announced that Britain was at war. He was recently recommended for the Nobel Peace Prize. In his tour of the United States he was associated with Muriel Lester under the direction of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Perhaps no man in British public life has so completely captured the imagination of the peace forces of the United States as George Lansbury, Apostle of Peace.

## JAPAN BARS NEW LABOR PARTY

According to a wireless dispatch to the New York Times under date of May 7, 1940, Home Minister Kodama refused registration of the new People's Labor Party and prohibited its organization on the ground that it would arouse class consciousness and impair national unity in wartime. The new party was projected by nine democratic laborites, headed by Professor Iso Abe, who were recently expelled from the Social Mass Party. Mr. Abe and his colleagues are mild Socialist liberals who have never been suspected of communism. The Social Mass Party to which they belonged has recently developed Nazi tendencies and when Professor Abe and his group criticized the policies of the government with reference to China a few weeks ago they were expelled. The new party which they attempted to form was based upon democratic principles. Explaining his action in prohibiting the formation of the new party, Home Minister Kodama declared, "Irrespective of their principles or their activities, they invite class friction and national unanimity would be impaired." This is the seventh time that the formation of a leftist party has been forbidden by the government.

THE NATIONAL INCOME OF THE UNITED STATES, 1909-1939, FARM AND NONFARM\*

Year	Total	Non-farm	Farm ***	Farm percentage of total
1909	\$26,415,000,000	\$22,070,000,000	\$ 4,345,000,000	16.4
1910	28,114,000,000	23,474,000,000	4,640,000,000	16.5
1911	28,480,000,000	24,251,000,000	4,229,000,000	14.8
1912	30,394,000,000	25,798,000,000	4,506,000,000	15.1
1913	32,133,000,000	27,560,000,000	4,573,000,000	14.2
1914	31,919,000,000	27,367,000,000	4,552,000,000	14.3
1915	33,210,000,000	28,404,000,000	4,806,000,000	14.5
1916	39,036,000,000	33,198,000,000	5,838,000,000	15.0
1917	47,385,000,000	38,482,000,000	8,903,000,000	18.8
1918	55,357,000,000	44,856,000,000	10,501,000,000	19.0
1919	60,354,000,000	48,756,000,000	11,598,000,000	19.2
1920	64,552,000,000	56,478,000,000	8,074,000,000	12.5
1921	54,210,000,000	49,883,000,000	4,327,000,000	8.0
1922	57,546,000,000	52,109,000,000	5,437,000,000	9.4
1923	66,171,000,000	59,620,000,000	6,551,000,000	9.9
1924	68,824,000,000	61,898,000,000	6,926,000,000	10.1
1925	73,278,000,000	65,852,000,000	7,426,000,000	10.1
1926	76,564,000,000	68,695,000,000	6,869,000,000	9.1
1927	76,457,000,000	69,618,000,000	6,839,000,000	8.9
1928	78,117,000,000	71,209,000,000	6,908,000,000	8.8
1929	80,372,000,000	73,542,000,000	6,830,000,000	8.5
1930	73,571,000,000	68,456,000,000	5,115,000,000	7.0
1931	62,384,000,000	59,303,000,000	3,081,000,000	4.9
1932	48,355,000,000	46,551,000,000	1,804,000,000	3.7
1933	45,771,000,000	43,174,000,000	2,597,000,000	5.7
1934	52,540,000,000	49,164,000,000	3,376,000,000	6.4
1935	57,007,000,000	52,770,000,000	4,237,000,000	7.4
1936	66,722,000,000	61,599,000,000	5,123,000,000	7.7
1937	70,753,000,000	65,282,000,000	5,471,000,000	7.7
1938	64,687,000,000	60,236,000,000	4,451,000,000	6.9
1939**	67,608,000,000	63,150,000,000	4,458,000,000	6.6

FARM POPULATION, NONFARM POPULATION, AND NUMBER OF FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES, JAN. 1, 1910-39\*

Year	Farm popu- lation	Nonfarm population	Number of farms	Index numbers, 1910-14 = 100		
				Farm popula- tion	Nonfarm popula- tion	Number of farms
1910	32,077,000	59,340,000	6,362,000	99.6	94.9	99.1
1911	32,110,000	61,000,000	6,390,000	99.7	97.6	99.5
1912	32,210,000	62,270,000	6,420,000	100.0	99.6	100.0
1913	32,270,000	63,950,000	6,450,000	100.2	102.3	100.5
1914	32,320,000	66,000,000	6,480,000	100.4	105.6	100.9
1915	32,440,000	67,440,000	6,520,000	100.8	107.9	101.6
1916	32,530,000	68,750,000	6,560,000	101.0	110.0	102.2
1917	32,340,000	70,490,000	6,540,000	100.4	112.8	101.9
1918	31,770,000	72,320,000	6,520,000	98.7	115.7	101.6
1919	30,930,000	73,770,000	6,470,000	96.1	118.0	100.8
1920	31,614,000	74,247,000	6,448,000	98.2	118.8	100.4
1921	31,763,000	75,932,000	6,500,000	98.7	121.5	101.2
1922	31,749,000	77,800,000	6,510,000	98.6	124.5	101.4
1923	31,130,000	80,117,000	6,400,000	96.7	128.2	99.7
1924	30,817,000	82,549,000	6,350,000	95.7	132.1	98.9
1925	30,830,000	84,330,000	6,372,000	95.8	134.9	99.2
1926	30,619,000	86,166,000	6,340,000	95.1	137.8	98.7
1927	30,170,000	88,217,000	6,260,000	93.7	141.1	97.5
1928	30,188,000	89,735,000	6,270,000	93.8	143.5	97.7
1929	30,220,000	91,029,000	6,290,000	93.9	145.6	98.0
1930	30,169,000	92,328,000	6,289,000	93.7	147.7	98.0
1931	30,497,000	93,190,000	6,390,000	94.7	149.1	99.5
1932	30,971,000	93,608,000	6,530,000	96.2	149.7	101.7
1933	31,693,000	93,694,000	6,720,000	98.4	149.9	104.7
1934	31,770,000	94,464,000	6,770,000	98.7	151.1	105.4
1935	31,801,000	95,351,000	6,812,000	98.8	152.5	106.1
1936	31,809,000	96,215,000	6,830,000	98.8	153.9	106.4
1937	31,729,000	97,148,000	6,820,000	98.5	155.4	106.2
1938	31,819,000	97,999,000	6,850,000	98.8	156.8	106.7
1939**	32,059,000	98,870,000	6,920,000	99.6	158.2	107.8

\*\* Preliminary estimates

\*\*\* National Income available for living

\* From Congressional Record, April 30, 1940, pp. 8091, 8093